

MILES LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1997

MAY 5, 1998.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1021]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1021) to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands within the Routt National Forest in the State of Colorado, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1021 is to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands within the Routt National Forest in the State of Colorado.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 1021 authorizes an exchange of approximately 84 acres within the Routt National Forest for approximately 84 acres of private land known as the “Miles Parcel,” which is located adjacent to the Routt National Forest. H.R. 1021 establishes that the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged are approximately equal in value. Therefore, under the Act, no additional valuation will be required.

H.R. 1021 provides the authority needed to allow the Forest Service to undertake an exchange which will simplify the property line for the Forest and reduce the Forest Service’s maintenance costs. Ms. Marjorie Miles owns the inholding and occupies the National Forest parcels proposed for exchange under a special use permit. Pursuant to H.R. 1021, pasture lands would be conveyed to

Ms. Miles in exchange for a contiguous property that contains valuable riparian resources and is outside the Forest boundary.

H.R. 1021 will improve land management and add riparian acreage to the public estate. Additionally, the amount of fence that the Forest Service and Ms. Miles must maintain will be reduced. Finally, the need for a special use permit and the need to authorize a ditch across public lands will be eliminated.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1021 was introduced on March 11, 1997, by Congressman Scott McInnis (R-CO). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. On March 24, 1998, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 1021, where the Administration testified in support of H.R. 1021. On April 23, 1998, the Subcommittee met to mark up H.R. 1021. No amendments were offered and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee by voice vote. On April 29, 1998, the Full Resources Committee met to consider H.R. 1021. No amendments were offered and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact H.R. 1021.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1021. However, clause 7(d) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 1021 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in tax expenditures. According to the Congressional Budget Office, enactment of H.R. 1021 could affect offsetting receipts, but any effects would be negligible.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has

received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 1021.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 1021 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 1, 1998.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1021, the Miles Land Exchange Act of 1997.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Victoria V. Heid.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

Enclosure.

H.R. 1021—Miles Land Exchange Act of 1997

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because H.R. 1021 could affect offsetting receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply; however, CBO estimates that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 1021 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1021 provides that if a parcel of nonfederal land known as the "Miles parcel" adjacent to the Routt National Forest in Colorado is conveyed to the United States, then the Secretary of Agriculture is directed to assign to the person conveying that parcel all right, title, and interest to certain federal land within the Routt National Forest. Both parcels are about 84 acres in size. H.R. 1021 would adjust the boundaries of the Routt National Forest to reflect the land exchange once it is completed.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, some holders of grazing permits currently operate on the federal land to be exchanged. These permits generate a small amount of offsetting receipts to the federal government, but the land that would be acquired by the government would also likely be used for grazing. CBO estimates that any effects on offsetting receipts from enacting H.R. 1021 would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Victoria V. Heid. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

H.R. 1021 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, H.R. 1021 would make no changes in existing law.

